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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

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CHEMICAL AND OPTICAL INDUSTRIES'
OUTPUT UP

CHEMICAL PRODUCTION FOR FEBRUARY -- Rzeczpospolita, No 63, 11 Mar 49

Production of the state chemical industry for February was 103.4 percent of the plan, and according to products was as follows:

	Percentage of Plan
Calcined soda	103.1
Caustic soda	109.6
Clauber salt	109.8
Carbon electrodes	114.4
Carbide	105.7
Calcium cyanamide	107.8
Sulphite of ammonia	105.3
Varnishes and lacquers	108.0
Ultramarine	116.0

RESIN AND TANBARK PRODUCTION INCREASE -- Polska Ludowa, No 31, 15 Mar 49

The production of by-products from the State Forests shows a systematic growth. In 1948, 8,200 tons of resin were obtained, which was 57 percent above plan, as against 3,200 in 1946 and 5,000 in 1947. It is anticipated that during 1949, at least 8,000 tons will be obtained. As a result of the development of the industry for extraction of resins from stumps, it is estimated that during 1949 an additional 1,200 tons of colophony and 350 tons of turpentine will be obtained.

Tanbark furnished by the State Forests has been able to take care of the greater part of the demand of the nation's tanning industry, thereby reducing the import of this costly material. The recent increase in the tanbark supply is due to methods of obtaining and conserving the bark during the winter season, which is the main season for the exploitation of forests. Until now, the supply of bark was not great because bark was obtained only during the summer months.

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The need for the development of the nation's own production of tannin is becoming more evident with the constant growth of leather production. At present, the greater part of the tannin supply is imported from other countries. The possibilities of obtaining raw tanning material within the country are great, theoretically about 5,000 tons of tannin per year. Approximately 50,000 tons of usable fir and felled-tree bark, which contains an average of 10 percent tannin, can be obtained by proper yearly exploitation of forests.

One of the main reasons for the low production of tanbark are the strict requirements for preparing the raw material. Tanbark cannot be planed off, it must be peeled off in strips. To obtain the bark in this form, it must be gathered during the spring and summer months, while the main season for exploitation of forests is during the winter months.

Recently, the Forest Cooperative sponsored experiments at the Poznan University laboratory to determine the tannin content of fir bark obtained in the winter. The experiments showed that there was little difference between the tannin content of the bark obtained in summer and that obtained in the winter. The slight difference is due to the fact that the tannin is concentrated in that part of the bark which is nearest to the tree trunk and can be removed easily, without injury to the tissues, only in spring and summer.

At present, experiments are being made to determine the proper conservation of bark obtained during winter. Winter weather conditions do not permit the bark to dry properly and fresh bark contains 40 percent water, which makes it easily susceptible to mildew even at a low temperature.

Up to this time, the Management of State Forests, Torun Region, is the leading producer of bark. This region produced 178,118 kilograms of tanbark in 1948 (178 percent of plan) although it contains only 5 percent of fir and oak trees. Since 1946, a total of 500,000 kilograms of tanbark was acquired by the Management of State Forests.

The leading workers in tanbark production are: Borek, Wojciech Jendzynski, Bohdan Jendzynski, Marian Kucharski, Bronislaw Kucharski. The total production of these workers amounted to 49,583 kilograms of tanbark. These men were given cash bonuses by the Ministry of Forests.

PRECISION AND OPTICAL INSTRUMENT PRODUCTION INCREASES -- Polska Ludowa, No 33, 19 Mar 49

Factories of the Association of the Precision and Optical Instrument Industry have increased the scope of their production in 1949.

The Gen Swierczewski Factory is manufacturing precision measuring instruments used by the metal industry.

The production of gasometers is increasing rapidly. It is planned that monthly production will reach 1,500 gasometers in 1949, which is 4 times more than the 1948 production. A new type of industrial gasometer has been constructed for the urban gas and coke plants.

Microscope production now amounts to 260 per month as against 170 in 1948. In the near future, production will start on metallographic microscopes for factory laboratories and for research institutions. A model metallographic microscope has been constructed in the Polish Optical Instrument Factory.

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In the precision instrument factory a model shadowless lamp has been constructed for use in surgical operations. The factory is now beginning mass production of these lamps.

Production of lighting installations for railroad coaches has also increased markedly.

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